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SUNÉ WOODS NAMED 2016 RECIPIENT OF THE
BAUM AWARD FOR AN EMERGING AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER

ANNOUNCEMENT COINCIDES WITH 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AWARD, AMONG THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE U.S.

Award Exhibition on view at SF Camerawork May 5 through June 25, 2016

San Francisco, CA, March 7, 2016 -- The Baum Foundation and SF Camerawork (SFC) are pleased to announce Los Angeles-based artist Suné Woods as the recipient of the 2016 Baum Award for an Emerging American Photographer. Now in its 10th year, the national award is given bi-annually to an artist of exceptional talent working in the medium of photography, providing exposure and resources at a critical career-point.

The award is administered by SF Camerawork, the city's premiere alternative venue for photography, and consists of a $10,000 cash grant, a publication, and a solo exhibition at the gallery, on view from May 5 through June 25, 2016. The Baum Award was one of the first national awards dedicated to recognizing an emerging American photographer and remains one of the largest of its kind in the United States.

“Our goal for the Baum Award is to give photography artists a boost in life and to enable them to pursue their dreams and artistic careers by way of recognition from professionals and peers in their field,” says Glenn Bucksbaum, President of the Baum Foundation. “We’ve witnessed a string of successes from Baum Award artists, and it has been a very rewarding
experience to see that acknowledgment become such a positive note along their career path."

Suné Woods creates photographs, collage works, and multi-channel video installations. Woods employs a combination of appropriated and created imagery to address sociological phenomenon, imperialist mechanisms, and formations of knowledge. Her work engages absences and vulnerabilities within cultural and social histories through the photographic image. She is interested in how language is emoted, guarded, and translated through the absence/presence of a physical body.

Woods is a recipient of the 2015 John Gutmann Photography Fellowship Award and the 2012 Visions from the New California initiative. She has participated in residencies at Headlands Center of the Arts, Vermont Studio Center, Center for Photography at Woodstock, and will be in residence at Light Work (Syracuse, NY) in 2016.

Woods notes: “This award for me means an opportunity to grow and evolve. I am extremely grateful to be a Baum Award recipient, and excited to share my work through SF Camerawork with the Bay Area.”

About SF Camerawork’s Leadership in Photography
The San Francisco Bay Area has always been a vital international center for photography—since Ansel Adams, one the city’s favorite sons, lived and worked here in the 1930s and, even earlier, with Eadweard Muybridge’s pioneering photo experiments in the area during the 1860s.
Founded in 1974 and currently thriving in San Francisco’s up-and-coming mid-Market Street arts district, SFC has remained at the heart of the city’s photography ecosystem by bringing cutting-edge artwork from around the world to local audiences for nearly five decades. It was the first Bay Area organization to show work by highly influential artists such as Robert Mapplethorpe, Joel-Peter Witkin, and Sally Mann. More recently, SFC was the first West Coast venue for early-career work by Janet Delaney, Wang NingDe, Binh Dahn, Paccarik Orue, Chris McCaw, and Jason Lazorus—all of whom have since risen to national prominence. The Baum Award extends SF Camerawork’s legacy as a leader in the field and as a launching pad for artists’ careers at important junctures in their practice.

With SFMOMA’s new John and Lisa Pritzker Center for Photography, which will offer more space dedicated to the medium than any museum in the United States, San Francisco’s historical prominence in photography is only increasing. Enthusiasts drawn to this photo mecca in 2016 will find a rich and concentrated terrain of photography spaces to explore in addition to SFC, including the Pilara Foundation’s world-class collection at historic Pier 24, the legendary Rayko Photo Center, and fixtures like Fraenkel Gallery who also influence the photography scene on a national level.

**About the Baum Award**

The Baum Award was founded in 2001 by Glenn and April Bucksbaum. Since 2008, the Baum Foundation has partnered with SF Camerawork to administer the award nomination, manage the jury process, and host the exhibition. Each year, 25 contemporary art curators throughout the United States are asked to nominate two emerging artists for the award. A panel of professional artists and curators are then selected by SF Camerawork to jury the nominations and select the recipient.

The jury for the 2016 Baum Award included: Robert Johnson, Curator Emeritus, The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; Hesse McGraw, Vice President for Exhibitions and Public Programs, San Francisco Art Institute; Sergio De La Torre, artist and lecturer, San Francisco University; Santhi Kavuri-Bauer, curator and lecturer, San Francisco State University; and Heather Snider, Executive Director, SF Camerawork.

Past recipients of The Baum Award include: **Jaime Warren** (2014); **Eric William Carroll** (2012); **Christopher Sims** (2010); **Sean McFarland** (2009); **Mike Brodie** (2008); **Lisa Kereszi** (2005); **Katy Grannan** (2004); **Luis Gispert** (2003); and **Deborah Luster** (2001).

**About the Baum Foundation**

The Baum Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the quality of people’s lives through support of the arts, has funded the Baum Award since the inception of the program in 2001. The project originates from a conviction that photography is a powerful and influential medium with the capacity to emotionally connect with audiences in ways that words cannot. This ability to reach people on a visceral level can transform awareness into understanding and lead interest into action—fundamental aspects of a healthy and vital society.
About SF Camerawork
SF Camerawork has a 40-year history of supporting innovative photography and is the premiere non-profit photography gallery in the Bay Area. Through exhibitions, publications, and educational programs, SFC creates an engaging platform and opportunities for artistic exploration as well as community involvement with photography and related media arts.

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